

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SSB 5104

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### As Reported by House Committee On:

Higher Education  
Appropriations

**Title:** An act relating to the applied baccalaureate degree pilot program.

**Brief Description:** Expanding the applied baccalaureate degree pilot program.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Tom, Rockefeller, Shin, Oemig, Berkey, Brandland, Fairley, Pflug, Delvin, Rasmussen, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Zarelli, Prentice, Eide, Kline, Hobbs, Clements and Kilmer).

### Brief History:

#### Committee Activity:

Higher Education: 2/20/08, 2/25/08 [DPA];

Appropriations: 2/27/08, 3/1/08 [DPA(APP w/o HE)].

#### Brief Summary of Substitute Bill (As Amended by House Committee)

- Expands the applied Baccalaureate degree pilot program to three additional schools.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended. Signed by 10 members: Representatives Wallace, Chair; Sells, Vice Chair; Anderson, Ranking Minority Member; Hankins, Hasegawa, Jarrett, McIntire, Roberts, Schmick and Sommers.

**Staff:** Andi Smith (786-7304).

#### Background:

In 2005 the Legislature authorized the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to select four applied Baccalaureate degree pilot programs at community or technical colleges. Six colleges submitted proposals. Bellevue Community College, Olympic College, Peninsula College, and South Seattle Community College were selected as the sites

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for the pilot projects. Colleges began planning for program development in 2006. Upper division students began enrolling in the programs in the fall of 2007.

Institutions typically develop the applied Baccalaureate pathways for graduates of community and technical colleges who have earned professional/technical Associate in Applied Science degrees. The applied Baccalaureate degrees generally fall under two categories:

- professional/technical specialization pathway: provides upper-division coursework in the same field studied in the applied associate degree. Examples include nursing and engineering technology; and
- management specialization pathway: provides upper division instruction in management for technical workers who have either earned an applied associate degree or are engaged in a specific applied field. Examples include allied health management or social service management.

The SBCTC selected the participating institutions based upon: (1) their capacity to commit resources; (2) their ability to engage faculty to develop and deliver the curriculum; (3) the demand for the programs in their service area; (4) the cost-effectiveness for students; and (5) whether the program filled a gap in options offered by a public four-year institution in the geographic area.

The 2007-09 biennial budget authorized the SBCTC to select two additional pilots, one of which had to be a technical college.

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**Summary of Amended Bill:**

By June 2008, the SBCTC will select up to three colleges to develop and offer applied Baccalaureate degree programs. At least one selected college must be a technical college. The SBCTC will use the same criteria as used in the initial applied Baccalaureate degree pilot.

**Amended Bill Compared to Substitute Bill:**

The amended bill allows for the expansion to three community and technical colleges rather than two.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date of Amended Bill:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) The needs of employers are changing and are requiring that students have higher levels of education. The students, who would access these programs are already out working,

on average for a decade. Some of the geographic areas in which these schools are located are isolated and there are no other opportunities in their home community. These are place-bound students who wouldn't have otherwise had the opportunity to pursue a four-year degree close to home. Work is already underway to expand the pilot program because the expansion was authorized in the 2007 budget – at Columbia Basin it is the first applied Baccalaureate opportunity on the Eastern side of the state. The SBCTC would like to expand the pilot to three more schools, rather than just two like the bill is currently written.

**Persons Testifying:** (In support) Loretta Seppanen, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.

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## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended by Committee on Appropriations and without amendment by Committee on Higher Education. Signed by 34 members: Representatives Sommers, Chair; Dunshee, Vice Chair; Alexander, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Haler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Anderson, Chandler, Cody, Conway, Darneille, Ericks, Fromhold, Grant, Green, Haigh, Hinkle, Hunt, Hunter, Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Kretz, Linville, McDonald, McIntire, Morrell, Pettigrew, Priest, Ross, Schmick, Schual-Berke, Seaquist, Sullivan and Walsh.

**Staff:** Debbie Driver (786-7143).

### **Summary of Recommendation of Committee On Appropriations Compared to Recommendation of Committee On Higher Education:**

A null and void clause was added, making the bill null and void unless funded in the budget.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date of Amended Bill:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed. However, the bill is null and void unless funded in the budget.

### **Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) The applied baccalaureate pilot degree programs will advance access to baccalaureate degrees. Three colleges applied for the two applied baccalaureate pilot programs funded in the 2007-09 budget. This bill allows the State Board to move forward with implementing all three programs. No new funding is necessary as funding for program expansion is available through existing resources given the flexibility provided to use funding for both upper division university contracts and applied baccalaureate degree programs.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Chris Reykdal, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.